

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

Meeting of September 28, 1960

Commissioners Present:

Jordan Baris
Leonard Holman

Alexander Mark
John Marks

Leonard McCloskey
Angel Torres

Staff Present:

Daniel S. Anthony

Director Dan Anthony called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M. and "passed the gavel" to the newly elected Chairman, Alexander Mark after mentioning that Al and he had met at least a dozen times in the past month to discuss Commission program and activities for the 1960-61 year.

I. Resignation of our Assistant Director, Walter D. Chambers

There was a warm and sincere feeling of loss at the announcement of Walter's departure from the Commission to accept an appointment as Associate Director of the New Jersey Region, Nat'l Conference of Christians & Jews. Al Mark, our new Chairman explained some of the reasons for his departure and Dan Anthony answered several questions which led to a motion to send a letter of thanks and commendation to Walter for the great job he has done during the past 5 years. The motion was made by John Marks, seconded by Leonard Holman and unanimously passed.

a. By unanimous consent the Commission directed Dan Anthony to send a letter to Mayor Carlin immediately to let him know of their interest in filling the vacancy of Asst. Director. There was considerable discussion of the Civil Service procedure and the role of Mayor Carlin and the Commission in making the new appointment.

b. Commission also authorized the director to address a letter to Samuel Finklestein, City Personnel Director to determine the exact procedure which shall be followed in filling Walter Chamber's position.

2. Chairman Al Mark outlined program plans for the year.

- a. Workshops, institutes and encampments
- b. Brotherhood Week activities
- c. Program services to community and neighborhood organizations
- d. United Nations Celebration
- e. Open Commission meetings

He called the attention of the members to the 4 committees which have been set up to conduct major portions of the years anticipated business. Those committees are the following:

BUDGET

James Melnychuk
Al Mark
Angel Torres
Larry McCloskey

EDUCATION & THE SCHOOLS

Phil Meyer
Leonard Holman
Fred Landolphi
Marie Radel
Al Mark

NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS

John Cahill
Jordan Baris
William Ashby
Louis Pitts
John Marks

HUMAN RELATIONS NEWS

Al Mark
Dan Anthony
Office Staff

James Melnychuk will be chairman of the Budget Committee, Leonard Holman, chairman of Education & Schools Committee, the chairman of the Neighborhood Relations Committee will be selected at the first meeting.

Jordan Baris questioned our original terminology of Neighborhood "Stabilization" Committee and after tossing the ball back and forth the group decided to change the name to "Neighborhood Relations".

Angel Torres described a meeting he attended in Bloomfield which was conducted by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for persons in the State of New Jersey interested in the health, welfare and adjustment of Puerto Ricans to life in the State of New Jersey. He spoke in such glowing terms of the accomplishments of this meeting that the Commission felt it would be an excellent idea to invite Joe Monserrat of the National Office, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to visit with our Commission at the earliest possible date.

In connection with this talk about new citizens in our City, the director mentioned the brochure currently being prepared by the City Clerk of Newark, which will aid Puerto Ricans and Spanish-speaking peoples to adjust to life in this urban center. The Commission requested the director to commend the City Clerk for this pamphlet printed in Spanish which will be distributed to residents sometime during the month of October.

3. Leonard Holman, Vice Chairman reported on meeting with Mayor Leo P. Carlin

Our new vice chairman described the very constructive conference which he, the chairman and the director had with Mayor Carlin to discuss the year's plans and receive suggestions from the Mayor as to the direction of our program. Leonard felt that the meeting was a productive one and could be summarized in the Mayor's final statement which went something like "Just keep on doing the good job you have been doing".

4. Al Mark brought up the question of Commissioner's reactions to the Vice-Principals' list controversy and called for a discussion on the Board of Education's "Findings". Commissioners Torres, Holman, McCloskey and Baris all seemed to feel that any extension of the discussion on this matter would not bring positive changes in the final solution. The matter was held in abeyance on the basis of McCloskey's and Holman's remarks that the entire situation was now in the hands of legal authorities and there was little the Commission could do.

The chairman then referred to a memorandum transmitted by City Administrator Rinaldi from the NCNCR. As the members read over this brief four-point request for Commission action, they felt that the information was too general and that Mr. Rinaldi should be asked for specific names and addresses of complainants before the Commission takes action.

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5. All Commissioners participated in a live discussion provoked by Al Marks' descriptions of his conference with the heads of human relations agencies in Newark. The exchange ended with an agreement that the Commission shall initiate through its United Nations Committee, a field trip to United Nations headquarters to which we shall invite all members of the City Council and the Mayor.

It was also decided that one of the functions of our group should be to hold informal educational conferences with other city departments and public and private intergroup relations agencies for the purpose of coordinating our activities of mutual concern.

The meeting ended on a positive note at 10:05 P.M. as Jordan Baris commented, "With a program like this we have outlined for the year, let's make a positive mark in our community and end up with some very definite accomplishments for this year".

LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

and DR. HENRY H. KESSLER

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, as coordinating agency for United Nations Celebrations, wishes to express its sincere gratitude and commendation to all members of the City Council for appropriating \$2000 to be used for Newark's 1960 U.N. Observance.

We also thank Dr. Henry Kessler, Chairman, Mrs. Ceil Arons, Mrs. Sylvia Josephson and the representatives of the numerous organizations who for the past 10 years have worked diligently to make U.N. Day one of Newark's outstanding civic functions.